

PERSHING CHATTER

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HERB PHILBRICK—F.B.I. COUNTERSPY

Recently, as editor of the CHATTER, I had the opportunity to interview Herb Philbrick, a man who spent nine years of his life as an F.B.I. counterspy in the Communist Party. After gathering vital information and exposing important members of the party, Mr. Philbrick has continued his fight against the Communists by writing an anti-Communist book, relating his experiences in a T.V. series, and touring the country to lecture to various assemblies. Mr. Philbrick feels that the people of the United States should learn more about Communism before it can be successfully stamped out.

Mr. Philbrick was highly interesting and at the same time most informative. He explained that Communism is a plan to gain power. The people who are fighting for the so-called "perfect classless society" are only glory hunters underneath.

A few of the questions put before him and the answers he gave are considered important especially to teenagers. When asked if he thought it was thrilling and exciting working those nine years undercover in the Communist Party, Mr. Philbrick replied, "It was miserable. Being a member of the Communist Party is a very terrible ordeal." Many have been worrying wondering about the future of the United States with the threat of Communism so heavy. The thought foremost in the minds of citizens is, "Will the Communists ever overtake our government?" Mr. Philbrick thinks they never will and explains this by saying, "The Communists may be able to sneakily work themselves into high government jobs, but they will never be able to crush the resistance of the people. In fact they are strongly opposed by the citizens of their own country."

What can teenagers do to help in the crusade against Communism? Students of Pershing are doing a good job to uphold the American standards right now. How do you begin each day? Isn't it a morning ritual to salute the flag of the United States and say the Lord's Prayer? Repeating those sacred words is a pledge to help keep America "one nation, free and indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Always be on the lookout for Communist propaganda in any literature you read. You never know by the title of a book whether it is Communist material or not. Sometimes it is disguised in the most mis-leading ways.

Whatever you do, do not be taken in by the false promises of Communism. Avoid to the best of your ability, any contact with ideas and thoughts derived from the Communists' beliefs.

—Judy Whitehurst

SALUTING MR. PACE

The Chatter would like to recognize a very wonderful person here at Pershing. He is Mr. Pace, our head custodian. Mr. Pace was born in Kentucky and came to Texas in 1932. He began working at the old Pershing in 1942 and was there for seven years. He came to the new building when it was first opened and has worked here for 5 years. He has seen the school from an enrollment of 600 or 700 to its present enrollment of 1976. Mr. Pace has been with the Houston Independent School District for 17 years, enjoys working and likes all the kids very much.

Since Mr. Pace and his helpers work so hard to keep Pershing the wonderful school that it is, let's all try and do our share in taking care of our school grounds.

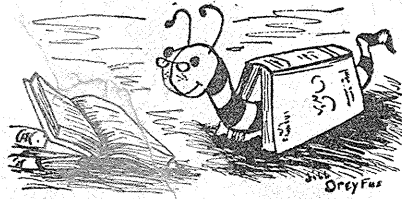
'Round and 'Round It Goes

... and where it stops—nobody knows. So the saying goes, speaking of the wheel of fortune.

According to early copies of the CHATTER and all reports received, the wheel of fortune stopped at the correct spot for many former Pershing students. The following people were graduated from "Panda Land"

Northwestern Life Insurance Company of Omaha, Nebraska.
The Esperson Building is where you'll find the office of Edward Franklin Golden is now with the

BOOKS



Hey Pershingites—here is another list of real cool books from your own school library.

PRACTICALLY SEVENTEEN

By Rosamond Du Jardin

Toby Heydon tells about herself, her small town family, and her first boy friend.

LOOK TO THE NEW MOON

By Frances Fullerton

This is the story of a Georgia girl, visiting her northern relatives in Maine and her problems in mixing with the group of young people at the club.

A GIRL CAN DREAM

By Betty Cavanna

Loretta Tarkin wins a course of flying lessons in an essay contest sponsored by Wing Airport. She learns much more than just how to fly during these lessons.

NINETEEN FROM SEVENTEEN

These nineteen stories from Seventeen Magazine includes "The Gift of Love," "The Two Miss Kofers," "Slick Sixteen," "The Skeleton of Mr. Nethersoul," "Initiation Fee," and "The Yellow Turtleneck Sweater."

RAMBLIN' ROUND

By Patti Oliver

Hello there, all you pandas! Tests seem to be worrying everybody lately, except Sally Bell who nearly fainted when she heard she made a hundred on her algebra test. However, some kids that are still trying are Ronnie Sanders, Nancy Knapp, Lynn Thompson and Norma Adams.

Parties are still in most lineups lately. Garnett Von Eiff had a small party (wow!) at his home on April 9. Some kids that attended were Carol Sue Griffin, Barry Bradley, Terry Van Wagner, Nancy Jackson, and Billy Cotrell.

Since kangaroo season has officially opened, we have had several girls asking us when the season begins for Oscar Creech. Well hunters, as far as I know, it's wide open. Happy trappin'!

Jody Childers, John Davis, Lynn Smiley, Bunky Caldwell, Sandra Smart, Claude Braswell, Sandra Scarborough, and Scotty Hedrick had a great dance at the Jr. League Hall on March 26th. A wonderful time was had by all who attended.

Larry Wolf says that Pershing girls just won't do. His true love is still ten million dollars.

Everybody's hayride was held on April 3. Some couples that were there are Sue Stolz, Mike McCory, Arlene Strong, Doug Pettitt, Judy Whitehurst, Oscar Creech, Sharon Taylor, Scott Whittier, Harriet Diamond, and Bill Watkins.

Mike Bowen, don't you know that late hours are bad for your health? Barbara Brownlee, Carol Sexton, Udith Zindler, and Andrea Gustafson had a great Party on April 23 at Andrea's house.

Lynn Smiley, don't be so sad! You'll soon be over at Lamar with Bunky.

Coulson, a Houston lawyer. His brother, W. J. Coulson, Jr., is also a lawyer.

Theodore Hess is now a bookkeeper for Humble Oil Company. When last heard of, his sister, Elizabeth, was a pianist for Groggans Music Store.

Where will the wheel of fortune stop for present day Pandas? Only they know the answer. Perhaps ten years hence our own names and careers will be found in a "Chatter."

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LOOKING BACK

By Sherry Evans

In 1854, the first free public school in Texas was established. That was one hundred years ago. This year, 1954, Texans are celebrating the Texas Public Schools Centennial. Pershing School was begun about twenty-nine years ago and has progressed rapidly. Would you like to know what

Pershing was like "before your time"? Early issues of the "Chatter" provide a seemingly endless supply of information.

The journalism students of Pershing were working like mad to produce four papers a year in 1931. At that time the paper was mimeographed and rather difficult to read. The same year, "Sakowitz Brothers, Clothiers" placed the following advertisement in the "Chatter": undergrad suits, \$15.95; sheeplined coats, \$3.95-\$9.75; sweaters, \$1.95-\$7.75. Oh yes, those were the good ole days.

Skipping to the year 1944, we find that a Red Cross Society had been formed in Pershing and it is a very popular club today, some eleven years later. As you know, it was during this time that the Second World War was raging. Money was scarce, as wool clothing, food, etc. For this reason a War Bond Drive was begun at Pershing, with rallies, talent shows, and other money-raising projects getting into full swing.

Mr. Clarence Orman, principal at

that time, celebrated his twentieth anniversary with West University Schools in 1945, the same year that the Pershing Band was extended an invitation to play at the San Jacinto-Jefferson Davis High School football game.

Mrs. Laura Durrenburger, better known today as "Mrs. D.", Mr. Coy Stewart, and Mr. John Bender were among the new teachers at Pershing in 1946. The same wonderful years, Pershing added to its large collections of trophies a volleyball championship. It was during this same year that Pershingites became tired of sitting around evenings twiddling their thumbs and organized Teen Canteen. They also tired of being known as just "Pershingites," so they voted on a mascot. From the Penguin, the Pelican, and the Panda, the student body selected as their mascot, the Panda, and named him Andy.

The year 1947 found Pershing to be one of Houston's largest schools, and it had only sixty seniors! My! how times have changed! Even then, however, the building was overcrowded, and students ate lunch in classrooms, due to lack of lunch-room space.

1948 found everyone still suffering from the effects of World War II. Clothes and materials were so hard to find, and money was so scarce, that the faculty voted that during the spring term, girls were to wear, instead of skirts and blouses, shorts or blue jeans. In the place of blouses, midriffs, halters or shirts were to be worn.

Pandas breathed a heavy sigh of relief and gladness in 1949, when the October issue of the CHATTER proudly announced that a new, \$2,000,000 school would be ready by September, 1950. Dedication ceremonies were held one bright day in 1949, from 7:30 A.M. to 8:00 A.M., with Superintendent William E. Moreland officiating. 1949 was a big year for Pershing. New teachers were Mrs. Norma Richardson, Mrs. Leona Lord, Mrs. Bess Brannen, and Mr. James V. Malone.

September of 1950 was a memorable month for Pershing students and the Pershing faculty, for it was then that they moved into their beautiful new home at Braes Boulevard. A grass planting contest was held, and everyone was seen sowing seeds.

In 1952, Frances Ferrell, daughter of Mrs. Oralena H. Ferrell, a Pershing teacher, was the city spelling champion, and won an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. and the State Capitol. Also during 1952, Honey Claypool and Sue Beard, former Pershing students, won art awards in a contest sponsored by Foley's and the Colura Company. Their prize-winning artwork was a done while they were art students at Pershing. Another 1952 Pershing highlight was the city football championship.

In 1953, Pandas participated in a teen-age talent show at Blanton Memorial. The hard-working Pershing football team came through again and were co-champs in football. In June of the same year, Mr. Clarence Orman retired as principal after twenty-eight years at Pershing, and Mr. John A. Ratliff came to Pershing to be our new principal.

Your life has been a long and prosperous one, Pershing. Having survived severe hardships through the years, you can now look ahead into a bright and happy future.

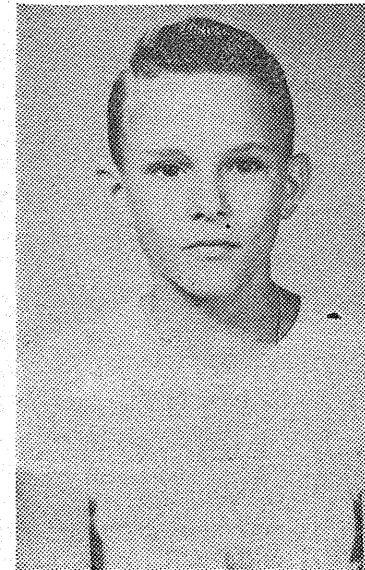
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PANDA PERSONALITIES



BILL HUEBEL

Hi gang! We really have a great Panda Personality this month. He is four feet eight inches tall with light brown hair. His hobbies are collecting stamps and music. I bet you have already guessed who he is. That's right, Bill Huebel, a member of Mrs. Starkey's homeroom.

Bill plans to follow in his father's footsteps as a petroleum engineer. While attending Mark Twain he was their "Fire Chief."

When Bill finishes Pershing, he plans to go to Lamar and play football. After Lamar he wishes to go to Texas University.

Junior Homemakers Give Style Show

By Pat Swanzy

The junior homemakers of Pershing put on a style show in assembly March 25, 26. The dresses shown were made by the girls.

The narrator for the program was Suzanne Robinson. To start the program off Linda Richardson introduced Judy Pettitt, the home economics representative for Pershing at the state convention in Fort Worth. Donna Hicks and Peggy O'Neal were the accompanist at the piano. The eighth and ninth grade girls modeled the new spring skirts and blouses they made.

In the middle of the program, Margie Green gave a poem on Good Grooming, Melba Jean St. Clair did a dance solo, and Pat Faulkner and Judy Rutledge did a dance.

Several Lamar Home Economics girls modeled their new spring fashions also.

At the end of the program some of the students portrayed a few of the teachers at Pershing. Tommy Tune as Mr. Landers; Bill Keller as Mr. Book; Mary Ruth Parker as Mrs. Jones; Sharon Parisi as Mrs. LaVerne; Mary Lynn Hartung as Mrs. Leggett; Judy Pettitt as Mrs. McLure; Eddie Jean Noack as Mrs. McKinley; Skippy Weigand as Mr. Malone; Neel Richardson as Mr. Skinner; Carolyn Craddock as Mrs. Perkins; Polly Harvey as Mrs. Richardson; and Jocelyn Hayden as Mrs. Bond.

Name's the Same

Names can be pretty strange things at times. Some names are very complicated and hard to pronounce while others are very common and everyday.

There are some people at Pershing who have names the same as famous people. Those that are famous and have namesakes here are Betty Davis, Joan Davis, Judy Johnson, Ann Miller, Robert Wagner, Don Wilson.

In the older days, names were given according to what the person did. We have students here with names such as A. Day, A. Fisher, A. Miller, and A. Day.



LOULYNN KELLY

Boy, is Mrs. M. A. Jones' homeroom lucky! They have as a member the cutest girl, with brownish blond hair and blue green eyes.

This little girl has had three scholarships, she has been team captain, homeroom sweetheart in the seventh grade and vice-president in homeroom. She has also been in the student council for one year and has been chairman of Mrs. Rason's social studies class and assistant in Mrs. Southerland's science class. Now you see why she is this issue's Panda Personality! Her favorite pastime is watching T.V. She plans to attend either Rice or the University of Texas. Of course, as you've probably guessed, this issue's Panda is Loulynn Kelly.

Spring Fever

Around springtime everybody is a little absent minded—including teachers.

Miss Christy Wyatt, algebra teacher, is a good example of a person afflicted with spring fever. She had been helping some students with blackboard work when she said, "Erase your seats and take your work, please."

After finishing here at Pershing he plans to attend Lamar and then on to S.M.U. Jimmy's ambition after finishing college is to be football coach at S.M.U.

of the classes is drawing pictures and cartoons of the Civil War. An excellent clay model of Abraham Lincoln was done as special work.

Mr. Clyde Thomasson's classes have been making posters on various subjects which they have studied. Two students made a board to locate various places using a battery and wires, while another student is working on a project of the different types of war machines used in World Wars I and II. They have also been playing quiz games.

A "date flash board" is what it's called. Although we're not sure what it is, it is in Mrs. Jewel Leggett's room and it is a very interesting project.

Students of Mrs. M. A. Jones' should know their state pretty well by now. They have been making maps and charts on Texas regions and have been identifying cities and places of importance.

Mrs. Cornelia Smith's classes are making posters on the presidents and the events that took place during the term they were in office. They have current events every Friday and have been playing quiz games.

An interesting field trip was taken by Mrs. Nettie Barnes' second and seventh period social studies classes. On March 27 they boarded a bus and were off on a wonderful adventure. Many early Texas sites were visited and everyone enjoyed themselves. Mrs. Barnes' other class is planning a field trip which will be taken soon.

Mrs. Julia Bond's classes have been studying the Civil War. One



JIMMY BRENTS

Hey Pandas! Take a gander at this month's ninth grade Panda Personality. He is a dandy fellow named Jimmy Brents and is in Mr. Hamner's homeroom. Jimmy is a cool looking guy, 5' 7" tall, with brown hair and green eyes.

Jimmy has played on our school's football team and has also been captain of his homeroom intramural football team. It is not surprising, then, that he names football as one of his favorite sports.

Among Jimmy's list of favorites are: color, blue; food, chicken; drink, milk; song, "Blowing Wild"; sports, baseball and of course, football; hobby, girls; subject, history; teacher, Miss Wyatt. He also has some pet peeves and to top this list are girls and conceited seventh graders.

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Homeroom Activities

Mrs. Long's homeroom is going together with Mrs. Miller's homeroom for an end-of-school party.

The party is planned for sometime late in April. It will be a wienner-roast and refreshments will be taken care of by the separate homerooms. Competitive games will be played between the two rooms.

Mrs. Bond's high nine homeroom has been playing "What's My Line?" using names of famous persons living or dead. The challengers received peanuts as a prize instead of money.

The officers for Mrs. Madden's high nine homeroom are: president, Suzanne Furneaux; vice-president, Skippy Weigan; secretary and CHATTER reporter, Judy Whitehurst; and treasurer, Mary Lynn Wilson.

On Wednesday, March 31, 1954, Mrs. Jackson's homeroom presented a hobby show in the auditorium. Since the high seventh grade homeroom program is based upon hobbies, we tried our best to convey the idea to the audience. The program was presented with Mrs. Gregory's homeroom.

Karen Cowdin won three ribbons for her flower arrangements in the flower show.

In the flower show, six ribbons were won by five members of Mrs. Ferrell's homeroom. The winners were Harry Hilburn, David Warren, Betty Hodell, Richard Hixon, and Lynn Walker.

Mrs. Farrell's homeroom was really behind the Easter Seal Drive. The homeroom collected \$9.36.

Farrell's Fireballs, won their first ball game against La Verne's homeroom. The captain is Jimmy Gurley and the assistant is Paden Hildreth. The girls' softball team has not yet played a game. The captain is Cathy Baxter and the assistant is Mary Frances Harris.

Mrs. Warren, mother of David Warren, of Mrs. Perrell's homeroom, gave a very interesting talk, April 7, 1954, on flower arranging.

Mrs. La Verne's homeroom presented an assembly program on April 7, entitled "Hobbies Are Fun." The play showed hobbies made in class.

Norma Imbt and Jeannie Koberling both won ribbons in the flower show recently. Elden Jones' poster was a m.o.g the winners in the Houston Beautiful Contest.

Teacher of Month

This month's feted teacher is our beloved algebra teacher, Miss Edith Moreland. She has been teaching here at Pershing for twelve years.

Miss Moreland attended two colleges, Incarnate Word College where she received her B.A. degree and the University of Houston where she received her M.A. degree.

Here at Pershing Miss Moreland is sponsor of the Student Council and has a H-8 homeroom. Outside of school her interests are sports. She is particularly interested in horses and horseback riding. For many years she has been associated with camping and has belonged to the camping association as well as the national rifle association. She is now an assistant camp director, professionally, and also belongs to many teachers' organizations.

Among Miss Moreland's list of favorites are: person, one with a sense of humor; color, blue; food, filet; drink, coke; flower, yellow roses; and song, "Little Things Mean a Lot." Her pet peeves are folks who call her "Hey, Miss Moreland!" and chocolate covered cherries.

Old Master

The artist, Winter, paints the land. With grace surpassing human hand. He has one brush, the wind, which spreads

The snow on all the garden beds. When dusk comes he will tint the snow

With the dainty pink of sunset's glow, Then with icy hand he will sign his name

To the picture hung in my window frame.

Prize Winning Poem by Sharon Strong



By Karen Kamin

Hi there Pandas! How about some fads and fashions! Let's start off by talking about sun tans. Most people don't think that sun tans have anything to do with fashions, but they are wrong. In the summer there is nothing so important. A sun tan can either make clothes look good or bad. Some people overdo it a little, however. If you do have a nice suntan there is nothing so becoming as pastels. On a brunet, yellow or white are nice colors. On blonds pink or blue are nice.

Enough about sun tans, now let's talk about clothes. Peasant blouses are really in style this summer. Since it is very hot in Houston, even sleeveless blouses are not cool enough, so peasant blouses are just right. Some of you prefer backless dresses, but they're not always the best things to wear because some people don't approve of them for school. It's shorts from now till September! Those bluejeans are out. Even t-reddore pants are not quite as popular.

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How Long Is a Second?

A second may be longer than you think. In the space of a second:

A standard-speed (75 r.p.m.) phonograph turntable makes 1 1/4 turns. A runner, making the world's record for the mile, travels 1 1/3 yards.

A movie camera shutter opens and closes 24 times.

A fly vibrates its wings about 330 times (if in flight).

The key farthest to the right on a piano keyboard vibrates a wire 8300 times.

Light travels 186,000 miles.

Your heart beats from 1 1/5 to 1 1/3